

Dear Participants to the Round Table ITALY-RUSSIA at Dubna, on behalf of the Italian Embassy in the Russian Federation, it is my greatest pleasure to welcome you in the city of Dubna. The present event, is co-organized by our Embassy and by the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research which is located in the territory of the Russian Federation and is conspicuously financed by its government, yet has the status of an International Organization. Dubna is a relatively young city, it was founded only in 1956 and grew around its Laboratory which is the very reason for its existence. Dubna is a Naukrad, namely a city of Science and no better place could be selected for today's event. Science is international by its own definition and all the scientists of the world are scientists in the first place, Italians, Russians, or other Nationals just as a second instance. Modern Science is the engine for the advance of Humanity in all respects, those touching upon intellectual development, those related with the solution of planetary emergencies. Those associated with the planning of a more prosperous, technically advanced, more peaceful world.. Science is also the only road which can construct a more just future for all human beings.

The second key word naturally attached to the concept of Science is collaboration. The romantic vision of the isolated genius who in its golden solitude solves the problems of the world is just a romantic vision. In reality more than 90% of the scientific discoveries both theoretical and experimental is the outcome of collaborations and most of them are international. Our two countries have already collaborated extensively and effectively in the past and are doing so at this very moment. Yet we should never stop exploring new ways and perspectives. What we did together is great but we might and should do still better. Such is the goal of the present round table. The scientists should propose new fields of collaboration, should invent new ways and open new perspectives. The politicians and the diplomats have the duty of finding the financial resources, creating the international treaties and facilitating the contacts that are required in order for the scientist dream to come true.

I wish all of you a pleasant and fruitful work during these two days of exploration and scouting and I would like to guarantee that on the side of the Italian Embassy everything possible will be done in order to transform your dreams into reality. We will pay particular attention to the development of the new Accelerator NICA and to the development of the international collaboration needed to construct its eye, namely the MPD detector.

With my best regards to all of you also on behalf of His Excellency the Ambassador Vittorio Claudio Surdo.